



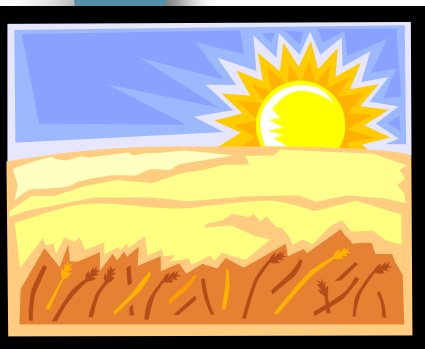
Montana Drought Advisory Committee



NASS, USDA, Montana
Field Office

Toby Paterson
Statistician

May 19, 2006



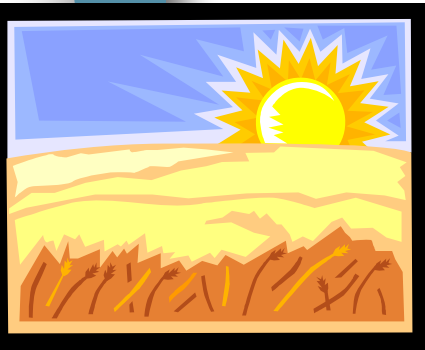
Winter Wheat May 1 Production Forecast

Planted Acreage

- 2.0 million acres.
- 150,000 acres less than previous year.

Expected Harvested Acreage

- 1.95 million acres.
- 150,000 less than last year.



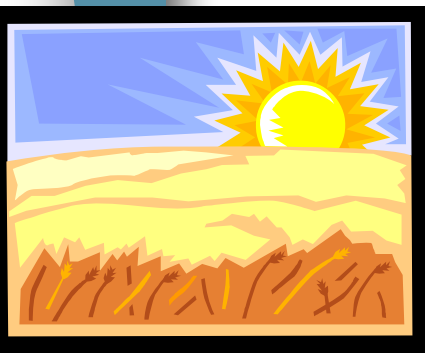
Winter Wheat May 1 Production Forecast

Total Montana Production

- 81.9 million bu.
- Down 12.6 million bu from 2005.

Yield

- 2006 yield forecast 42 bu per ac.
 - Down 3 bu from 2005 final yield.



Winter Wheat May 1 Production Forecast

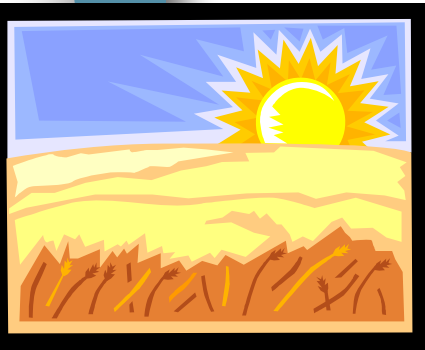
May 1st, is too early.

We will know more on June 10 when

- ❑ June 1st Yield Forecast is released

and

- ❑ June 30th when June Acreage released.



Hay Stocks May 1

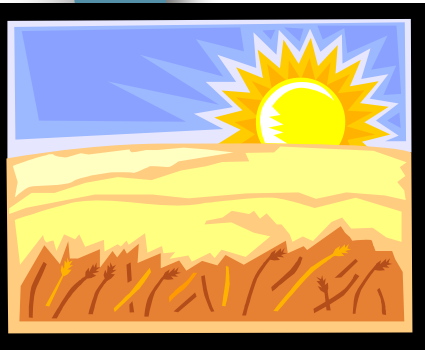
1,463,000 Tons

70% more than last year.

Hay production in 2005:

5.85 million Tons.

23% more than 2004.

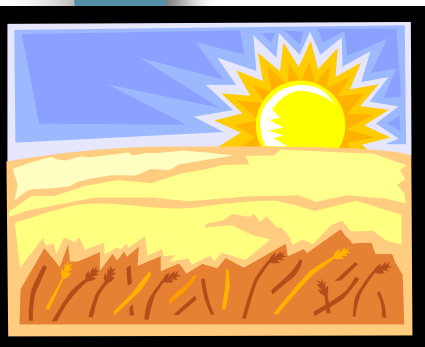


Crop Weather Report

Week Ending May 14, 2006

😊 Golden Triangle (North Central) Area received little precipitation since April 1 but is a little ahead of Oct.1 to date?

😊 This area accounts for over half of Montana's winter wheat production.



Crop Weather Report

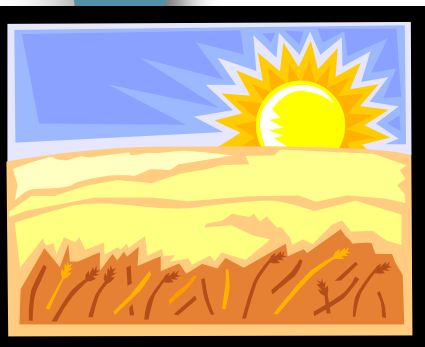
Week Ending May 14, 2006

Topsoil Moisture

Ahead of Last year & 5-yr Avg.

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	33%	18%	39%	48%
Adequate	63%	78%	56%	47%
Surplus	4%	4%	5%	5%

May 19, 2006



Crop Weather Report

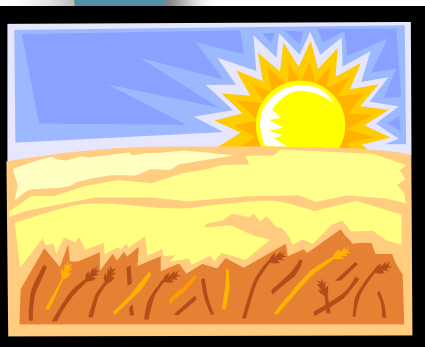
Week Ending May 14, 2006

Subsoil Moisture

Ahead of Last Year & 5-yr Avg.

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	45%	32%	66%	68%
Adequate	54%	62%	33%	31%
Surplus	1%	6%	1%	1%

May 19, 2006

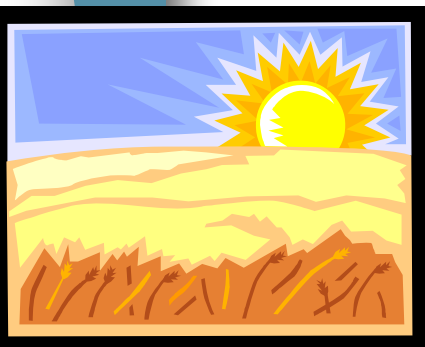


Crop Weather Report

Week Ending May 14, 2006

- Winter wheat crop in mostly good to excellent condition.
- Stressed in select areas due to dry, windy conditions.

May 19, 2006

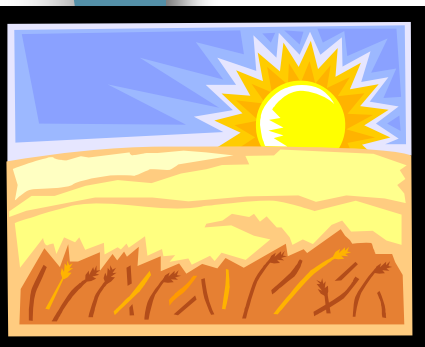


Winter Wheat Crop Condition

Nearly the same as last week; much better than last year & 5-yr avg.

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	1%	7%	17%	49%	26%
Last week	2%	4%	22%	47%	25%
Last year	3%	9%	34%	46%	8%
5-yr Avg	12%	21%	32%	28%	7%

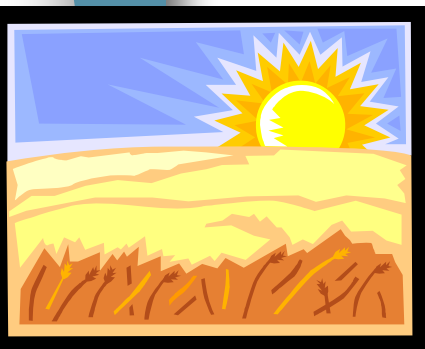
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Crop Progress Percent

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Spring wheat				
seeded	83%	48%	87%	76%
emerged	41%	8%	45%	34%
Barley				
seeded	86%	68%	84%	77%
emerged	39%	18%	47%	42%

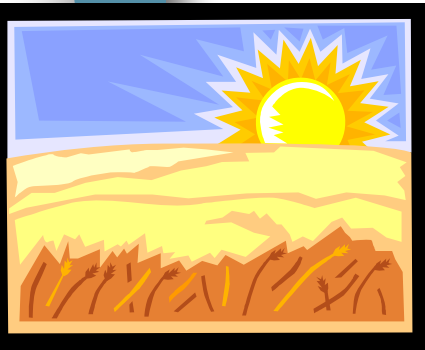
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Crop Progress Percent

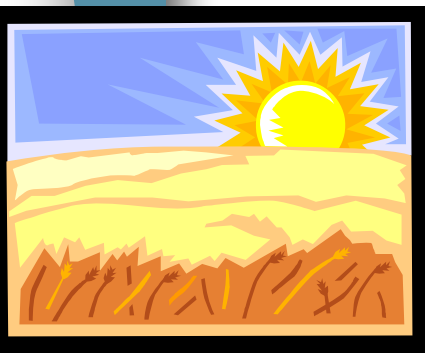
	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Ave
Sugar Beets emerged	55%	17%	47%	50%
Corn planted	36%	26%	36%	50%
emerged	0%	0%	7%	13%

May 19, 2006



Livestock

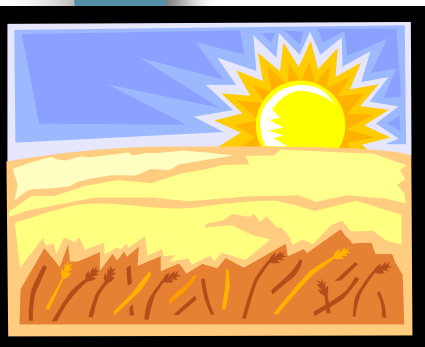
- Death loss from April's snow blizzards higher than 10,000 animals in southeast Montana.
- 6,000 sheep and 4,000 cattle lost in Carter County alone.



Livestock Grazing

- Pasture and range conditions are better than last year & 5-year average.
- Conditions this week mostly good to excellent.
- 43% of the cattle and 38% of the sheep have moved to summer ranges.

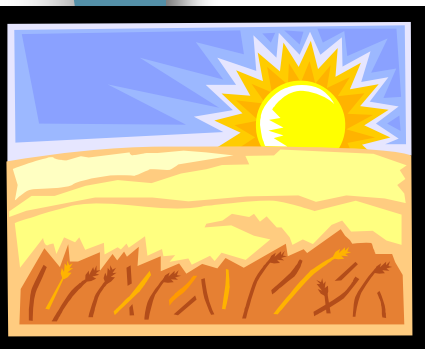
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Range & Pasture Condition Percent

	Very poor- poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	7%	30%	47%	16%
Last week	6%	32%	48%	14%
Last year	30%	47%	20%	3%
5-yr Ave	42%	34%	21%	3%

May 19, 2006



Summary

- Topsoil and subsoil moisture decreased a little last week, but still look promising.
- Overall crops look good for this time of year.
- Winter wheat is off to a great start.
- Future crop conditions depend on getting more moisture.

May 19, 2006